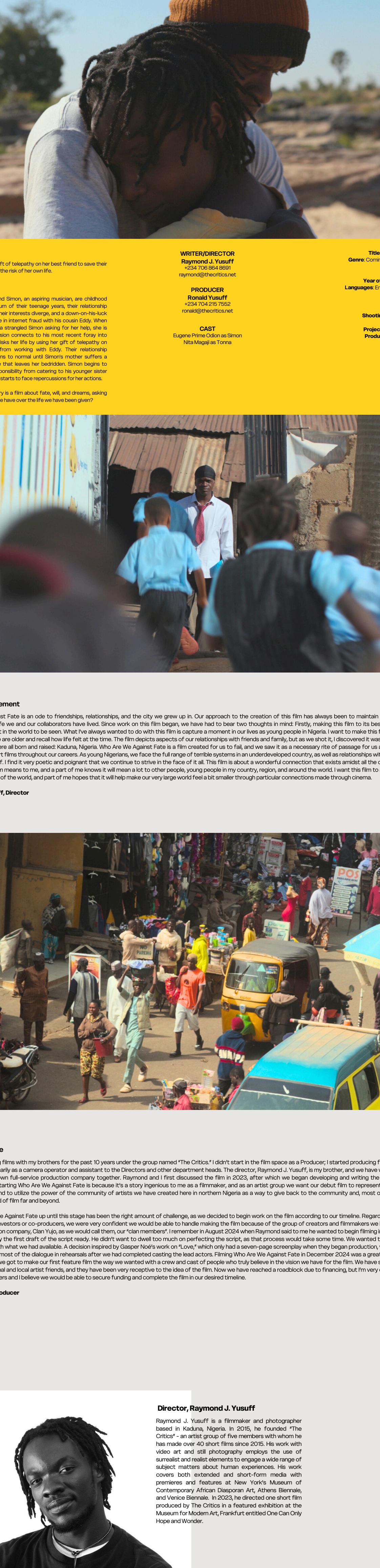
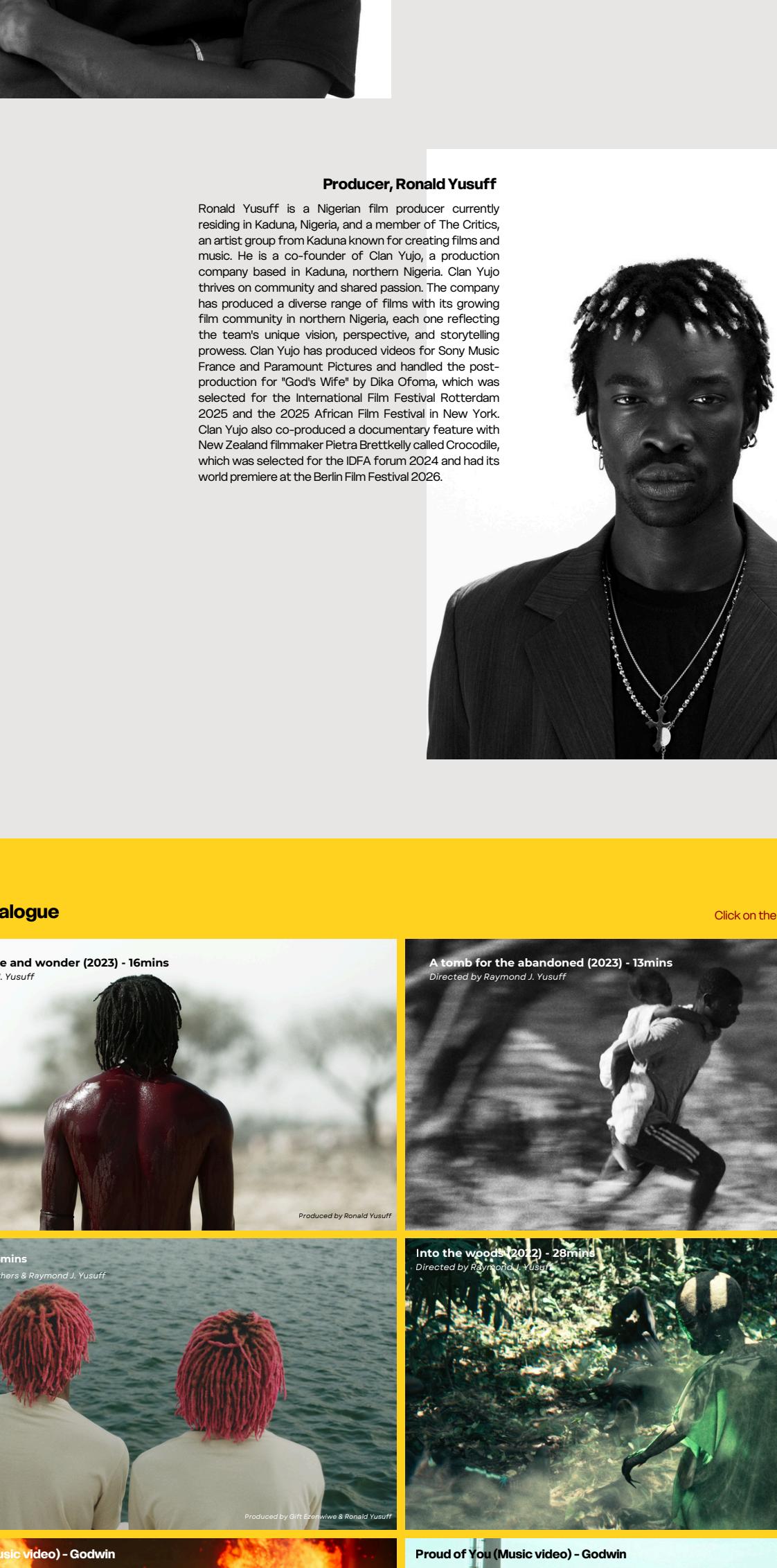


Who are we against fate

Electronic press kit



A film by Raymond J. Yusuff



Logline

A kind child uses her gift of telepathy on her best friend to save their strained relationship at the risk of her own life.

Short synopsis

Tonna, a spiritual child, and Simon, an aspiring musician, are childhood best friends. At the turn of their teenage years, their relationship becomes strained as they grow more diverse. Simon's carefree-go-lucky Simon becomes distant in internet forums with his cousin Tonna. When Tonna has a vision of a strangled friend asking for her help, she is concerned that this vision connects to his most recent foray into internet fraud. Tonna releases her gift by using her telepathic ability on Simon to bring him back to his old self. Their relationship improves, and all returns to normal until Simon's mother suffers a near-death experience that leaves her bedridden. Simon begins to feel the weight of responsibility from catering to his younger sister and mother, and Tonna starts to face repercussions for her actions.

At the core of this story is a film about fate, will, and dreams, asking how much control do we have over the life we have been given?

WRITER/DIRECTOR

Raymond J. Yusuff
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raymond@thecritics.net

PRODUCER

Ronald Yusuff
ronak@thecritics.net

CAST

Eugene Prime Odion as Simon
Nita Magaji as Tonna

Title: Who Are We Against Fate
Genre: Coming-of-age, Drama, Fantasy
Country: Nigeria
Budget: \$100,000 - \$200,000
Year of production: 2024-2026
Languages: English, Hausa, Pidgin English
(English art available)
Run time: 100 minutes
Frame rate: 24fps

Shooting format: 4K Canon RAW

Exposure: P-Stop

Production format: DCP

Post-production: Post-Production

Production company: Clan Yujo

Director's statement

Who Are We Against Fate is an ode to friendship, relationships, and the city we grew up in. Our approach to the creation of this film has always been to maintain a grounded and honest perspective on life and we our collaborators have lived. Since work on this film began, we have had to bear two thoughts in mind: Firstly, making this film to its best version, and secondly, getting the film out in the world to be seen. What I've always wanted to do with this film is capture a moment in our lives as young people in Nigeria. I want to make this film so that we may look back on it when we are older and recall how life felt at the time. The film depicts aspects of our relationships with friends and family, but also our love letter to the place we grew up in. As a native of Kaduna, Nigeria, I am a huge advocate for our country and we view it as a necessary reminder for us as filmmakers who have primarily made short films throughout our careers. As young Nigerian, we face the challenges of tentacles systems in our neighborhood country, as well as relationships with friends and lovers, art, work, loss, and grief. I find it very poetic and poignant that we continue to strive for the face of it all. This film is about a wonderful connection that exists amidst all the chaos that life can bring. This is what this film means to me, and a part of me knows it will mean a lot to other people, young people in my country, region, and around the world. I want this film to act as a bridge from our side to other areas of the world, and part of me hopes that it will help make our very large world feel a bit smaller through particular connections made through cinema.

Raymond J. Yusuff, Director

Producer's note

I have been making films with my brothers for the past 10 years under the group named "The Critics." I didn't start in the film space as a producer; I started producing films in 2022, but before that, I worked as a director. We have produced over 10 films in 2022 and 2023. We have won several awards and recognition for our work. We have now decided to form our own full-service production company together. Raymond and I first discussed to film in 2023, after which we began writing and writing the script. Why I was most interested in kickstarting Who Are We Against Fate is because it's a story relevant to me as a filmmaker, and as an artist group we want our debut film to represent who we are, where we come from fully, and to utilize the power of the community of artists we have created here in northern Nigeria as a way to give back to the community and, most of all, bring new, exciting stories to the world.

Making Who Are We Against Fate up until this stage has been the right amount of challenge, as we decided to begin work on the film according to our timeline. Regardless of whether we had secured external investors or co-producers, we were very confident we would be able to handle making the film because of the group of creators and filmmakers we had been able to gather under our production company, Clan Yujo, as we call them; our "clan members." I remember in August 2024 when Raymond said to me he wanted to begin filming in December 2024, even though we had only the first draft of the script ready. He didn't want to dwell too much on perfecting the script, as that process would take some time. We wanted to get our hands dirty by shooting the film and then go back to the script and refine it. We began shooting in December 2024, and we are currently editing the film. We have had to make changes to the scenes and wind most of the dialogue in rehearsals after we had completed casting the lead actors. Filming Who Are We Against Fate in December 2024 was a great decision for us, and I'm truly blessed that we got to make our first feature film in the way we wanted with a crew and cast of people who truly believe in the vision we have for the film. We have shared the film idea with multiple international and local artist friends, and they have been very receptive to the idea of the film. Now we have reached a roadblock due to financing, but I'm very confident in the film, my lead crew members, and believe we will be able to secure funding and complete the film in our desired timeline.

Ronald Yusuff, Producer

Biography



Director, Raymond J. Yusuff

Raymond J. Yusuff is a Nigerian filmmaker and photographer based in Kaduna, Nigeria. In 2015, he founded "The Critics," an artist group of five members with whom he has produced over 10 short films since 2015. His works include video art and still photography, emphasizing the use of surrealism and realist elements to engage a wide range of subject matters about human experiences. His work covers both extended and short-form media with premieres and festivals at various Museums of Contemporary Art, African Documentary Art, Africa Biennale, and Venice Biennale. In 2023, he directed one short film produced by The Critics in a featured exhibition at the Museum for Modern Art, Frankfurt, entitled One Can Only Hope and Wonder.



Producer, Ronald Yusuff

Ronald Yusuff is a Nigerian film producer currently residing in Kaduna, Nigeria, and a member of "The Critics," an artist group from Kaduna known for creating films and music. He is a co-founder of Clan Yujo, a production company based in Kaduna, northern Nigeria. Clan Yujo till date has produced over 10 short films, and the company has produced a diverse range of films with its growing film community in northern Nigeria, each one reflecting the team's unique vision, perspective, and storytelling prowess. Clan Yujo has received accolades for Sony Music Pictures, Nollywood Pictures and others. The post-production for "God's Wife" by Dika Ofoma, which was selected for the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2025 and the 2025 Africa Film Festival in New York. Clan Yujo also co-produced a documentary feature with New Zealand filmmaker Peter Sutcliffe called Crocodile, which was selected for the IDFA forum 2024 and had its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival 2025.

Clan Yujo Catalogue

One can only hope & wonder (2023) - 16mins
Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff

Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff

Click on the thumbnails to preview films

Unearthly (2026) - 14mins
Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff

Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff

A tomb for the abandoned (2023) - 13mins
Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff

Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff

Blood for blood (Music Video) - Godwin
Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff & Godwin Josiah

Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff & Godwin Josiah

Into the woods (2023) - 28mins
Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff

Directed by Raymond J. Yusuff

Crocodile
Directed by The Critics & Piera Sutcliffe

Directed by The Critics & Piera Sutcliffe

God's Wife
Directed by Dika Ofoma

Directed by Dika Ofoma

KEY CREW BIOS

CREDITS

Written by
Raymond J. Yusuff, Deborah Johnson & Ugo Udoj

Directed by
Raymond J. Yusuff

Produced by
Ronald Yusuff

Executive producers
The Critics, Eniola Odebiyi

Cast
Simon Eugene Prime Odion
Eugene Prime Odion
Deborah Johnson
Shemaya Mirabola Ayomide Momodu

Ugo Udoj
Deborah Shemaya Adelaka Nella

Aunt Felicia Comfort Iwanga

Aunt Blessing Martina Balala

Music Logik, Obi Nwachukwu

Deborah Johnson, Co-writer
She is the 2022 winner of the Abuja Literary Society and Nigerian Headlines Award. She is a 2023 fellow under the SEE MY WORLD program, she is the 2nd runner-up in the world poetry slam competition and a winner of Daga Spirit Talent Hunt 2023. Deborah is a young storyteller under Rise Africa and is passionate about African stories, hoping to use art as a means for social change.

Johannes Riedl, Composer

Johannes Riedl is a German composer for film and production music as well as a mixing engineer.

Over the past 10 years, he has worked on over 25 projects for visual media. These include award-winning short films like "The Click," "Wetland," "American Chopper," as well as the corporate film "Hedwig" and an international campaign for the German brand "Liquorice". He has also worked on music videos for "Seven To Light" (Drama), "Waga" (Drama), and "The Only Way" (Thriller). Previously, his music was featured in "Ogan Ole War" as well as the movie "The Woods" (Fantasy).

In addition, he composed the trailer music for the US web series "Searchers", which was awarded a Telly. Other projects include "The Click," "Wetland," "American Chopper," as well as the corporate film "Hedwig" and an international campaign for the German brand "Liquorice". He has also worked on music videos for "Seven To Light" (Drama), "Waga" (Drama), and "The Only Way" (Thriller). Previously, his music was featured in "Ogan Ole War" as well as the movie "The Woods" (Fantasy).

While currently working for Revelation Entertainment under the creative direction of Morgan Freeman, he is currently working on short film projects as well as two feature films.

White Mode represents the opposite: an uncompromising metal album specifically designed for action-packed moments in film and television. His music has been used in numerous national and international TV productions. Placements include the Olympics and shows like "Steel Buddies" and "Auf Streife".

Production designer, Cinematographer
Cinematographer: David Okon Bassey

Production designer: David Okon Bassey

Production designer: